



Office of
OSBORNE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Osborne, Kansas 67473

COURTHOUSE

Telephone 913/346-2412

17 December 1996

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Room 222
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

Reference: CC Docket No. 96-45

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing regarding the important ramifications to rural local health departments of the 1996 Telecommunications Act. As the local governmental presence in this rural area, charged with responsibility for protecting and promoting the health of all the rural residents in the area, the ability to communicate electronically throughout the state and nation is imperative.

Local health departments are very important health care providers. For example, we are charged with responsibility for preventing and curbing epidemics, responding to disasters such as toxic spills, floods, the effects of hurricanes, etc. In these situations, access to the most up-to-date information from our federal health agencies, such as the CDC, FDA is critical. Receiving information from FEMA and other agencies in a timely fashion is critical to developing a systematic and comprehensive response at the local level. Better access to information and disease-prevention protocols at all times, and especially in emergencies, is essential for the provision of health care and will save lives.

We are pleased that local health departments are included in this Act. Linking all of the nation's rural health departments will assure that a information infrastructure is available for all Americans.

Please contact me for any further information that would help the FCC make its determination.

Sincerely,

Carla Mans, R.N.

cc: Nancy Rawding NACCHO

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Questions to Address:

1. Name of project:
Osborne County Health Department

2. Please list each of the project's sites:

Name of Site: Osborne County Health Department State in which it is located: Kansas

Please answer the following questions for each of your sites. Use additional sheets if necessary.

3. What is the nearest city of population equal to or greater than 50,000 in your state, and approximately how far are you from its boundary?

City: Salina Distance from city boundary: 100 miles

4. Name of the project's telecommunications service provider:

United Telephone/Rural Telephone Service

5. Level of telecommunications service the project is currently using: (For example, voice grade, 144 kpbs (ISDN), 384 kpbs, T-1 or equivalent)

6. Charges for telecommunications service:

Is there a monthly charge? ☒ No ☐ Yes

If Yes, how much is the charge? _____

Is there a usage based charge? ☐ No ☒ Yes

If yes, how much is the charge? 60 hrs-\$14.95; 120 hr-19.95; unlimited-\$29.95

Is there a distance component (such as a per-mile fee) of the charge? ☒ No ☐ Yes

If yes, how much is the charge? _____

Was there an installation fee? ☐ No ☒ Yes

If yes, how much was the charge? \$30.00 activation

Is the charge the regular tarrified rate, or is there a discount from the telecommunications provider? ☐ Tarrified ☐ Discount

7. How does the project use telecommunications in the delivery of health care? (For example -- to send x-rays, distribute public health information, or perform video consultations. Please identify any occasional or episodic uses, such as might result from an outbreak of disease.)

Distribute Public Health Information

Email from CDC/State through Wonder

Faxes

Video Conferences

Telephone Conferences with State Staff regarding Immunizations, Flu Out Breaks

8. Could the project provide the services it is currently providing with less bandwidth? What effect would a lesser level of bandwidth have? (The implications of using greater or lesser levels of telecommunications services are related to image transmission time. What would be the impact if the health care activities for which you now use telecommunications took twice as long, or if they could be completed in half the time?)

9. What would the implications of having a greater level of bandwidth be?

10. Do you have e-mail? ☐ No ☒ Yes

11. Do you have Internet access? ☒ No ☐ Yes

If yes, do you incur long-distance charges by using it? ☐ No ☐ Yes

Please estimate your number of hours of Internet use per month: _____

12. If you have access to the Internet, please list any purposes other than e-mail (such as accessing databases such as Lexis/Nexis) for which you use it:
